

Family Resource Centers

Family Resource Centers located in elementary schools across Kentucky are required to meet the Families in Training component, which consists of an integrated approach to home visits, group meetings and education for new and expectant parents. Parents will receive training to enhance parenting skills and information in the areas of child development, nurturing and health for their infants, toddlers and preschool children ages 0 – 5. **There is special emphasis on infants and toddlers ages 0 – 3.**

Goal of Component

To ensure a productive start in life for every child ages prenatal – 5 (with emphasis on prenatal – age 3), and promote a strong foundation for future school success.

Centers will:

1. Recruit, engage and educate parents on early child development and parenting skills through consistent and ongoing contact*;
2. Assist families in identifying developmental concerns;
3. Collaborate with community partners and link families to appropriate prevention and intervention services.

** Consistent and ongoing contact includes interactive home visits and group meetings with parents and parents and children together, with an emphasis on expectant parents, infants and toddlers and children not yet in school. Topics should include: Early brain development, child abuse prevention, appropriate developmental experiences and the importance of education.*

Needs Assessment/Data Sources

- Early Head Start
- First Steps
- IDEA-B (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- Local childcare providers
- Local prenatal programs through hospitals, health departments, ob-gyn offices, and other health providers
- Preschools
- Women, Infants and Children ("WIC") Nutrition Program offered through local health departments
- KIDS Count data
- FRYSC data

Methods of Service Delivery

A process must be in place to monitor child development for participants in this core component.

There must be **consistent** and **ongoing** contact with families through:

- Home visits - to provide parent education and monitor child development
- Group meetings – to provide parent support and education (i.e. parent/child activities, parent classes, networking opportunities, etc.)

Examples of Program Activities

- United Way bornlearning® Academies:
 - *A six-session, parent engagement program that teaches caregivers how to turn everyday moments learning opportunities. The setting for this program is the elementary school, allowing families to become comfortable with the school their child will be attending.*
- Parents as Teachers (PAT):
 - *Provides the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.*
- Home visits:
 - *Visiting as many incoming kindergarteners as is possible over the summer: Welcome students and parents, discuss the importance of reading and offer age appropriate books.*

Collaborative Partners

- Early Head Start
- Early development programs, e.g., HANDS, Healthy Families, First Steps, Parents as Teachers, etc.
- Early Childhood Regional Training Centers
- Hospitals
- Licensed day care providers
- Local Health Departments - (Offer prenatal care, family planning, well child exams and screenings to determine appropriate physical development, immunizations, WIC Nutrition Program for infants and pregnant women, HANDS home visitation program)
- Local ob-gyn, pediatricians and other physicians and practitioners.
- Parents
- Preschools
- United Way (Success by Six; bornlearning® program);
- Youth Services Centers - Coordinate services with Youth Services Centers at middle and high schools for referrals of adolescent parents to Family Resource Center Families in Training Programs

Expected Outcomes

- Parents' knowledge of early childhood development will be increased;
- Parenting skills will be enhanced;
- Child abuse and neglect rates will be reduced;
- Children will increase school readiness skills;
- Parent involvement in their children's education will increase;
- Children will experience greater academic success; and
- Early detection and appropriate referrals of possible developmental delays